

and Joyce Kruse of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Merrill and Joyce were married in 1965.

Merrill and Joyce's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. I congratulate this devoted couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them and their family nothing but the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FLAT ROCK

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Flat Rock, Michigan on its 50th anniversary of incorporation. The City of Flat Rock embodies so much of what makes Michigan and the 12th Congressional District great; it is a privilege to represent the city and its people.

Flat Rock began as a Wyandot Native American settlement, and later was designated as a reservation for the Wyandot, functioning in that way until 1830. In 1818, Solomon Sibley purchased 330 acres of land in the area, and in 1824 the Vreeland family purchased nearly 800 acres, including the 330 acres belonging to Mr. Sibley. The land was plotted as the villages of Vreelandt and Smooth Rock. In 1838, the village of Flat Rock was platted and recorded by the Gibraltar and Flat Rock Land Company, who purchased a large portion of the land. At that time, the company was attempting to build a canal to connect Lake Erie with Lake Michigan. While that effort did not succeed, it was a larger indication of the fact that many people from the east coast, and especially New York state, were traveling to the fertile farmlands in what is now Southeast Michigan. The area was officially incorporated as a village in 1923 and later as a city in 1965, the occasion which we celebrate today.

In the 20th century, the village and city of Flat Rock has enjoyed tremendous growth through thoughtful and capable leadership, including the work of the current Mayor, City Council, and staff. The City's booming growth in the past ten years has significantly increased property values and population, a trend that is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Henry Ford recognized the special nature of Flat Rock and established the Ford Motor Company Lamp Factory on the banks of the Huron River in 1925. This relationship with Ford Motor Company has been a successful one, and today, Flat Rock is the proud home of the Flat Rock Assembly Plant which produces the iconic Ford Mustang and the Ford Fusion. The City of Flat Rock has captured the best aspects of industry and production, while at the same time, maintaining a unique identity with a small town feel.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the City of Flat Rock and to wish the city many more years of success.

HONORING JIM PALMER

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate baseball Hall of Famer Jim Palmer, who turns 70 years old on October 15, 2015.

Jim was one of the greatest pitchers while playing with the Baltimore Orioles. Jim joined the team in 1963 after graduating from Scottsdale High School, made his major league debut in 1965, and continued to play for the Orioles until his retirement in 1984. He won the American League Cy Young award three times, the Gold Glove Awards four times, was named to the American League All-Star Team six times, and was a key part of three World Series winning teams. Jim was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1990 in his first year of eligibility, and his number, 22, was retired by the Orioles following his retirement.

Jim is truly an exceptional man, not only on the field but off the field. Over the years, he has devoted his time to numerous charities including the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Baseball Assistance Team. He has two daughters, Jamie and Kelly.

I join with his friends and family in celebrating this wonderful milestone. I wish him good health and continued success in the coming years.

REGARDING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the International Day of the Girl and to advocate for robust funding for programs that benefit the education of refugee children in general and refugee girls in particular.

Today, there are more forcibly displaced people roaming the earth than at any other time since World War II. 60 million men, women and children currently qualify as refugees. One in every two is under the age of 18 and about 50% of them are girls. While the U.S. is a generous supporter of global aid programs, less than 10% of that aid goes to education and less than 2% goes to educate children trapped in emergencies.

Many refugee children have no schools nearby to attend and in those cases where education is an option, refugee children face significant challenges such as overcrowding, language barriers and the lack of learning materials. As a consequence, many refugee children around the world do not receive the quality education they need to survive as adults. Access to education is especially vital for young girls who are six times more likely to marry as children if access to secondary education is unavailable to them. Those who fall between the cracks often become victims of human trafficking and child labor.

The average refugee is displaced from their home for 17 years. Without an adequate edu-

cation, refugee children can become economically handicapped for life. They grow up without the skills to earn a living or support a family. According to the Girl Up organization, every additional year of secondary education completed by refugees results in a 10% increase in earnings. Every bit of the support we provide can help break the cycle of poverty that threatens the majority of refugees.

That is why I rise on this International Day of the Girl to commend groups like Girl Up and organizations like UNICEF and UNHCR for all they do to support refugees and especially for their support of childhood education.

CONGRATULATING VOORHEES HIGH SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**HON. LEONARD LANCE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Voorhees High School of Hunterdon County, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement. Voorhees was cited as an "Exemplary High Performing" school, as measured by state assessments and national tests. This recognition is a testament to the outstanding work and dedication of the faculty and staff, as well as the efforts and successes of the students in creating a safe and welcoming school where students master challenging content.

The curriculum at Voorhees High School has prepared students to attend some of the finest universities in the Nation and the extra-curricular activities, electives, leadership training and guest speakers offer students a wide array of academic experiences. Voorhees High School's athletic program continues to grow as well, both in scope and success.

This is a prestigious award to receive and Voorhees High School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER AND BETTY KUBIK

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Roger and Betty Kubik of Avoca, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Roger and Betty were married at the First Lutheran Church in Avoca on August 22, 1965.

Roger and Betty's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Kerri and Angela, and their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. I commend this devoted couple